Policy on genetically modified seeds

2050. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have framed a policy on entry of multinationals in seed sector that would be going to market genetically modified seeds;

(b) whether Government agree that such a seed does not enter India which may ultimately damage crops in the long run; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (c) All genetically modified seeds require evaluation of safety to the environment and safety to human and animal health under the Indian Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and the Rules, 1989. No transgenic seed can enter into Indian Agriculture or in the Indian food chain without having their safety evaluated by the Government. If any transgenic seeds during evaluation is found to influence adversely the Indian environment including damage to any crop, such seed will not be allowed to enter into Indian Agriculture and will not be authorised to be used commercially whether it is developed by public sector or private sector, including multinational seed companies.

Crop loss in Andhra Pradesh

2051. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the estimated crop loss in the State of Andhra Pradesh on account of recent flood;

(b) which are the districts affected on account of heavy rains; and

(c) how many persons had died in the natural calamities and how much relief was provided to meet these natural calamities in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a)